

What is claimed is:

1. A force sense imparting/inputting apparatus comprising:  
an operation member capable of operating in both normal and  
opposite directions;

5 an electric actuator capable of imparting force in both  
normal and opposite directions to said operation member;

detection means for detecting an operating direction and  
an operating amount of said operation member; and

control means for controlling said electric actuator so  
10 that force in the opposite direction to the operating direction  
of said operation member can be imparted to said operation member  
in accordance with the operating direction detected by said  
detection means;

wherein said control means is set so that:

15 said force in the opposite direction to the operating  
direction imparted from said electric actuator to said operation  
member increases at the start of the operation of said operation  
member from 0 to a predetermined upper limit value with the  
increase of the operating amount of said operation member on the  
20 basis of a predetermined function;

said force in the opposite direction to the operating  
direction imparted from said electric actuator to said operation  
member is kept at said upper limit value during the operation of  
said operation member; and

25 said force in the opposite direction to the operating  
direction imparted from said electric actuator to said operation  
member decreases at the finish of the operation of said operation

member from said upper limit value to 0 with the increase of the operating amount of said operation member in the opposite direction to the operating direction of said operation member on the basis of said predetermined function.

5           2. A force sense imparting/inputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined function is a linear function having a gradient of greater than 0.

          3. A force sense imparting/inputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operation member is disposed in such a  
10 fashion as to be capable of rotating in both normal and opposite directions, and said electric actuator comprises a motor capable of imparting torque in both normal and opposite directions to said operation member.